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ABSTRACT

There are many reasons why teachers evaluate students: to provide colleges and prospective employers with some measure of a student's skill level; to inform parents of their child's progress; and to provide both teacher and student with a guide to areas needing further attention in the teaching and learning process, to mention three. Just as there are many reasons for evaluating students, there are also many means of assessing student competency. One of these is the final examination. Educators do not agree on the value of the final examination, however. The purpose of this ERS Information Aid is to present an overview not only of the basic views regarding the use of final exams, but to describe alternatives to this means of assessment and to report on the extent to which school systems have adopted alternatives. Also included are sample policies relating to exemptions from final exams. (Author)

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EXEMPTIONS FROM FINAL EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

There are many reasons why teachers evaluate students: to provide colleges and prospective employers with some measure of a student's skill level; to inform parents of their child's progress; and to provide both teacher and student with a guide to areas needing further attention in the teaching and learning process, to mention three. Just as there are many reasons for evaluating students, there also are many means of assessing student competency. One of these is the final examination.[a/]

Educators do not agree on the value of the final examination, however. The purpose of this *ERS Information Aid* is to present an overview not only of the basic views regarding the use of final exams, but to describe alternatives to this means of assessment and to report on the extent to which school systems have adopted alternatives. Also included are sample policies relating to exemptions from final exams.

PROS AND CONS OF FINAL EXAMINATIONS

One proponent of the final examination states that it is important that students "synthesize concepts and thus gain an overview of the semester's work." (4:49)[b/] Another expands on this position, as follows:

> They may gain an increment--ranging from small to large--of proficiency in core skills during the pre-exam review. They may exchange ideas, sound out theories, and hear their peers expound on phases of a subject that they may otherwise have excluded from consideration. They become confronted with the need to assign priorities. And, most fortunately, some students experience that exhilarating satisfaction of being able to comprehend the whole after months of visualizing and conceptualizing "parts." (1:36)

An opponent of final exams contends, however, that:

1. Finals waste precious time--instructors' and their students'--all of which could be better put to learning, to creating, to doing.

2. Finals produce tensions, irritations and bad feelings at the end of a semester, precisely at a time which should conclude with a warm, good feeling of unity and growth.

3. Unfortunately in too many cases, students rarely see their final examinations. Therefore, they do not see their errors or learn from their mistakes. This may also lead to the possibility of unfairness in grading with little or no recourse for the student. "You wrote a poor final, so your grade went down to C." *Fait accompli.*

4. Finals help make a teacher lazy. The teacher who relies on a final examination (or the school that may "require" one) for measuring a student's performance is simply grabbing for a grade. He can relax smugly and lecture in security assured, "I'll

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[a/] "Final examination," as used in this report, refers to tests administered to students at the end of a course, covering the subject matter included in the course. They are distinguished from proficiency examinations in broad subject areas, such as the New York State Regents' Examinations.

[b/] References cited in the body of text are noted by numbers within parentheses. The number before the colon indicates the entry number within the list of references on page 4; the number following the colon indicates the page within the entry. If no colon appears, the citation refers to the entire entry number. Multiple citations are separated by commas.

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find out who's been paying attention at finals." He is relieved of teaching, of exploring, of probing to find his students' weaknesses so he can offer help.

5. Finals emphasize grades not growth, cramming not studying, divisive tactics, not cooperation. (2:25)

ALTERNATIVES TO FINAL EXAMINATIONS

Although he does not advocate the elimination of final examinations, Harl R. Douglass states that "there is fairly universal agreement that not too much importance should be attached to final examinations and that greatly increased attention should be given by most teachers and in most schools to evaluation types throughout the semester or year." (3)

Nevertheless, Gertrude Clark, a teacher at Chatham High School (New Jersey), favors the retention of final examinations with the following modification: extend the final exam period to 3½ weeks--the first week of which is devoted to "gleaning the major issues, areas, concepts, etc., from the minor ones" (through team discussions and comparisons of their results with the teacher's) and the second week of which is set aside for exam preparation (during which students would work on preparing questions that might comprise the final). In fact, there might be preliminary agreement that a certain percentage of the exam questions would be drawn from those suggested by students. During the last half of the second week the teacher would prepare the examination. The students would take the examination during the third week. The last half-week would be reserved for discussion of the examinations. (1)

As another approach, Mollenkott proposes the "open examination." (4) The exam would be composed of essay-type questions that require pupils to organize facts to support each one's thesis on each question. In other words, there would be no "canned" answers. The exams would be administered in this way: all students would receive copies of the exam and would be directed to scan it. Each then chooses whether to take an open-book or closed-book exam. Those taking the open-book exam are seated at the back of the room. They are expected to provide more detail in their answers and will be graded more strictly than those taking the closed-book exam. Three other options exist. All students are allowed to pick among several questions--doing three of five, or five of seven, for instance. If a student who begins the closed-book exam decides he would do better on an open-book basis, he may move to the back of the room and use books and notes, but the entire exam will be graded as an open-book exam. A student opting for the closed-book exam may substitute a question of his own for any or all of the teacher-made options, but he will also be graded on the quality of his question. All students are encouraged to prepare for this option, but it is available only to those who choose the closed-book exam to keep students from bringing prepared answers into the room and merely copying them out. One problem with this proposal, Mollenkott concedes, is that it is more applicable to certain subjects than to others.

Other alternatives are suggested by Denholtz: giving take-home exams or projects in lieu of final examinations; exempting "A" and "B" students from taking finals; and doing away with finals entirely. (2:25)

EXTENT OF POLICY MODIFICATION IN LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS

To obtain data on the extent to which schools and school systems have adopted alternatives to final examinations, Educational Research Service included the following question in its 1973 "Selected School Practices" survey:

Are final examinations required as a matter of written or unwritten policy in all of your high schools for all students? If NO, what exemptions apply (e.g., graduating seniors exempted; at discretion of individual teacher; at discretion of principal; if certain grade average is maintained; in certain subjects only)?

The questionnaire, sent to the 585 school systems enrolling 12,000 or more pupils and to a selected group of 201 smaller systems, yielded 429 (73.3 percent) usable replies to the question. The following tabulation shows the number and percent of systems in which some students are eligible for exemptions from final examinations and the number and percent of systems that require all students to take finals:

Enrollment groups	Number and percent of responding systems: Some students exempted from final exams	All students required to take final exams
25,000 or more pupils	93 (69.9%)	40 (30.0%)
6,000-24,999 pupils	140 (57.4%)	104 (47.6%)
3,000-5,999 pupils	22 (68.8%)	10 (31.2%)
Less than 3,000 pupils	9 (45.0%)	11 (55.0%)
	(61.5%)	165 (38.5%)

The individual replies from the 264 sch[illegible]tricts reporting student exemptions from final examinations are shown in the system-by-system listing beginning on page 5. A list of systems reporting no exceptions to their final examination policies begins on page 13.

As shown in the system-by-system table, the possible combinations of factors determining a student's exemption from a final examination are numerous. Teacher discretion was the most frequently reported factor, by 114 systems (43.2 percent); often teacher discretion was combined with principal's and/or departmental approval. In 52 reporting systems (19.7 percent) only seniors may be exempted from final examinations, and in another seven systems seniors are exempted on one basis and other students on another basis. Grade average is an important factor or the sole factor in 54 systems (20.5 percent). Respondents in 16 districts (6.1 percent) said that the subject of the course determines whether final examinations must be given; however, these 16 do not include systems reporting the exemption of special education students only. (Such systems are listed with those reporting no exemptions.)

In five systems a good attendance record can exempt a student from finals, and one system uses conduct (the accumulation of less than a specified number of demerits) as a determinant of exemptions.

The assignment of projects, take-home exams, or other "evaluative activities" in lieu of a final examination was reported by eight systems (in one system this applies only to seniors). Three systems reported that no final examinations are required of any students (Willingboro Township, N.J.; Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District, Ohio; and Cranford, N.J.). St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, reported that its schools have "a continuous progress program; evaluation takes place when students complete course objectives."

The entry of "no details" for 43 districts (16.3 percent) in the system-by-system listing indicates that exceptions are allowed, but the respondents did not enumerate them.

Sample Policies Regarding Exemptions from Final Examinations

Reproduced on pages 15 and 16 are four sample policies outlining various kinds of exemptions from final examinations. These were submitted by school systems responding the the ERS survey.

REFERENCES

1. Clark, Gertrude. "Final Exam: Revisited." *NJEA Review*, 46 (September 1972), pp. 36, 61.

2. Denholtz, Elaine. "Fie on Finals." *NJEA Review*, 45 (April 1972), pp. 24-25.

3. Douglass, Harl R. *Modern Administration of Secondary Schools*. Second edition. Boston, Mass.: Ginn and Co., 1963. p. 382.

4. Mollenkott, Virginia R. "The Open Examination." *Today's Education*, 61 (October 1972), pp 49-50.

EXEMPTIONS TO FINAL EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS
IN 264 REPORTING SCHOOL SYSTEMS

School system	Exemption
25,000 or more pupils (93 systems)	
BIRMINGHAM, ALA., city schools	Straight "A" students
HUNTSVILLE, ALA., city schools	At discretion of principal and teacher
MOBILE COUNTY, ALA. (Mobile)	No details
PHOENIX, ARIZ.--Union High School District	Graduating seniors exempt
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ.	Teachers may exempt pupils on basis of achievement; principals may exempt teachers on basis of other satisfactory approaches to evaluation.
TUCSON, ARIZ.	At discretion of teacher and principal
ANAHEIM, CALIF.--Union High School District	At discretion of teacher
FRESNO, CALIF.	Most high schools do give final exams; however, there is no district policy requiring this.
LONG BEACH, CALIF.	At discretion of teacher
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.	No details
MT. DIABLO SCHOOL DISTRICT, CALIF. (Concord)	At discretion of teacher in some cases
NORWALK-LA MIRADA SCHOOL DISTRICT, CALIF. (Norwalk)	Varies from school to school, teacher to teacher, subject area to subject area; principal is key; most require final exams.
OAKLAND, CALIF.	At discretion of department head, teacher, and principal
ORANGE, CALIF.	At discretion of principal
RICHMOND, CALIF.	At discretion of principal and teacher
SACRAMENTO, CALIF.	Required in courses required for college; others at discretion of individual departments.
SAN BERNARDINO, CALIF.	No details
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.	At discretion of principal and/or teacher
SANTA ANA, CALIF.	Certain subjects
TORRANCE, CALIF.	At discretion of principal
JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLO. (Lakewood)	At discretion of principal and teacher
PUEBLO, COLO.	No details
HARTFORD, CONN.	Seniors with "B+" or better average in the subject
DADE COUNTY, FLA. (Miami)	Each school makes its own recommendations, subject to approval of area superintendent.
DUVAL COUNTY, FLA. (Jacksonville)	No details
PINELLAS COUNTY, FLA. (Clearwater)	No details
VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLA. (DeLand)	At discretion of principal and staff
DE KALB COUNTY, GA. (Decatur)	Final exams not required by policy; if exams are given, no individual students are exempt.
FULTON COUNTY, GA. (Atlanta)	No details
RICHMOND COUNTY, GA. (Augusta)	Seniors exempt
CHICAGO, ILL.	At discretion of teacher
ROCKFORD, ILL.	At discretion of principal and teacher

EXEMPTIONS TO FINAL EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS (Continued)

School system	Exemption
25,000 or more pupils *(Continued)*	
SHAWNEE MISSION, KANS.	At discretion of teacher; seniors "in good standing" may be excused.
FAYETTE COUNTY, KY. (Lexington)	No details
LOUISVILLE, KY., city schools	At discretion of school staff
CALCASIEU PARISH, LA. (Lake Charles)	No details
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LA. (Baton Rouge)	At discretion of principal and teacher
JEFFERSON PARISH, LA. (Gretna)	Graduating seniors with specified grade average
NEW ORLEANS, LA.	No details
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MD. (Annapolis)	Only teachers of college-bound students are required to give final exams.
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD. (Towson)	Determined by principal and staff of each school
HARFORD COUNTY, MD. (Bel Air)	At discretion of teacher
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD. (Rockville)	Final evaluation act required; may be oral or written exam or report, or some other project.
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD. (Upper Marlboro)	Graduating seniors exempted at discretion of teacher.
WORCESTER, MASS.	Graduating seniors
FLINT, MICH.	No details
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.	At discretion of principal and staff
LANSING, MICH.	Graduating seniors
WARREN, MICH.	At discretion of principal; grade averages
BLOOMINGTON, MINN.	At discretion of teacher
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.	At discretion of teacher, with approval of principal
ST. PAUL, MINN.	Graduating seniors
LINCOLN, NEBR.	At discretion of teacher
OMAHA, NEBR.	No details
WASHOE COUNTY, NEV. (Reno)	At discretion of principal and department staff
ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX.	No details
GASTON COUNTY, N. C. (Gastonia)	Graduating seniors with 90% average in a course
GREENSBORO, N. C., city schools	Grade average requirement
WAKE COUNTY, N. C. (Raleigh)	Graduating seniors; other students with "A" average
WINSTON-SALEM/FORSYTH COUNTY, N. C. (Winston-Salem)	Seniors
CINCINNATI, OHIO	At discretion of junior high principal to require exams; required of all students in senior high.
DAYTON, OHIO	No details
PARMA, OHIO	At discretion of teacher or department
YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO	At discretion of teacher
TULSA, OKLA.	At discretion of principal and staff
PORTLAND, ORE.	No details
PHILADELPHIA, PA.	No details
CHARLESTON COUNTY, S. C. (Charleston)	Seniors with 90 or above average exempted
COLUMBIA, S. C.	At discretion of principal, and in some cases, teachers

EXEMPTIONS TO FINAL EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS (Continued)

School system	Exemption
25,000 or more pupils *(Continued)*	
GREENVILLE COUNTY, S. C. (Greenville)	Exam policy determined by each school; most having exams allow some exceptions.
HAMILTON COUNTY, TENN. (Chattanooga)	Policy exempting some may be set by each school.
KNOXVILLE, TENN., city schools	No details
METROPOLITAN SCHOOL SYSTEM, NASHVILLE, TENN.	Senior with certain grade point average
AUSTIN, TEXAS	Graduating seniors who have completed all assignments, with semester grade average of "B" or better, and no 6-weeks grade below "B-".
EL PASO, TEXAS	Graduating seniors
HOUSTON, TEXAS	Graduating seniors with "B" or better average
LUBBOCK, TEXAS	All students with less than 10 demerits
PASADENA, TEXAS	Graduating seniors if certain grade average is maintained; others if certain attendance record is maintained
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH	No details
FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA. (Fairfax)	Any group or class, at discretion of teacher, with approval of principal, may be exempted.
HAMPTON, VA.	Seniors with "B" averages
HENRICO COUNTY, VA. (Highland Springs)	Graduating seniors
NEWPORT NEWS, VA.	Second semester exemption in grades 8-12 for students with "B" average
NORFOLK, VA.	Final exams not required in junior high schools; required in senior high schools
RICHMOND, VA., city schools	No details
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA.	Seniors with overall average of "B"
EDMONDS SCHOOL DISTRICT, WASH. (Lynnwood)	At discretion of teacher
HIGHLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT, WASH. (Seattle)	At discretion of teacher
SPOKANE, WASH.	No details
TACOMA, WASH.	No details
KANAWHA COUNTY, W. VA. (Charleston)	No details
MADISON, WIS.	At discretion of principal and teacher
MILWAUKEE, WIS.	May be exempted from some subjects on basis of grade average but all pupils must take some final exams each year.
6,000-24,999 pupils (140 systems)	
TUSCALOOSA, ALA., city schools	"A" average students
FORT SMITH, ARK.	Graduating seniors if certain grade average maintained
LITTLE ROCK, ARK., city schools	Students absent or tardy 3 days or less from a class (senior high schools only)
ABC SCHOOL DISTRICT, CALIF. (Artesia)	At discretion of teacher
ALAMEDA, CALIF.	At discretion of high school department
ALHAMBRA, CALIF.	At discretion of each department in a school
BERKELEY, CALIF.	Required in all regular high schools; at discretion of teacher in continuation high schools

EXEMPTIONS TO FINAL EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS (Continued)

School system	Exemption
6,000-24,999 pupils *(Continued)*	
BURBANK, CALIF.	No details
DOWNEY, CALIF.	Graduating seniors
MODESTO, CALIF.	At discretion of teacher
PALO ALTO, CALIF.	At discretion of each department in a school
POMONA, CALIF.	At discretion of teacher
RIALTO, CALIF.	At discretion of teacher
ROWLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT, CALIF. (Rowland Heights)	At discretion of teacher
SAN LORENZO, CALIF.	At discretion of each school
SANTA ROSA, CALIF.	At discretion of teacher
SEQUOIA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT, CALIF. (Redwood City)	At discretion of each department and teacher
VALLEJO, CALIF.	At discretion of teacher
VISALIA, CALIF.	In certain subjects
WEST COVINA, CALIF.	At discretion of teacher
WHITTIER, CALIF.--Union High School District	At discretion of teacher
LITTLETON, COLO.	At discretion of teacher
POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT, COLO. (Ft. Collins)	At discretion of teacher in case of graduating senior
EAST HARTFORD, CONN.	Graduating seniors in last quarter
ENFIELD, CONN.	At discretion of principal
NEW HAVEN, CONN.	At discretion of teacher
WEST HARTFORD, CONN.	If certain grade average is maintained, at discretion of teacher
NEWARK, DEL.	No details
MANATEE COUNTY, FLA. (Bradenton)	Some exemptions for high grades
MARION COUNTY, FLA. (Ocala)	Students with all "A" and "B" grades
PASCO COUNTY, FLA. (Dade City)	Graduating seniors exempt; others at discretion of teacher, on class-wide basis
BOISE, IDAHO	No details
GLENBARD TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT, ILL. (Glen Ellyn)	Graduating seniors, at discretion of teacher and dean of students
MT. PROSPECT, ILL.--Township High School District	Each school sets own policies
EAST ALLEN COUNTY, IND. (New Haven)	Students with "B" or better grade average
GREATER CLARK COUNTY, IND. (Jeffersonville)	At discretion of teacher
HAMMOND, IND.	No details
MONROE COUNTY, IND. (Bloomington)	At discretion of principal and department chairman
MUNCIE, IND.	At discretion of teacher
NEW ALBANY-FLOYD COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION, IND. (New Albany)	At discretion of teacher
PERRY TOWNSHIP, IND. (Indianapolis)	At discretion of each department (at present only math department gives June finals)
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA	At discretion of teacher
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA	Some graduating seniors at principal's and teacher's discretion
DAVENPORT, IOWA	At discretion of teacher and principal
DUBUQUE, IOWA	Vocational students

EXEMPTIONS TO FINAL EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS (Continued)

School system	Exemption
6,000-24,999 pupils *(Continued)*	
SIOUX CITY, IOWA	Seniors; skill classes at discretion of teacher
WATERLOO, IOWA	At discretion of principal and teacher
TOPEKA, KANS.	No details
ACADIA PARISH, LA. (Crowley)	At discretion of principal and staff
OUACHITA PARISH, LA. (Monroe)	At discretion of teacher
ST BERNARD PARISH, LA. (Chalmette)	Students are on continuous progress program; evaluation takes place when student completes course objectives.
PORTLAND, ME.	Graduating seniors
CARROLL COUNTY, MD. (Westminster)	Students with "B" average
FREDERICK COUNTY, MD. (Frederick)	At discretion of teacher
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MD. (Hagerstown)	At discretion of teacher
LAWRENCE, MASS.	Seniors with 85 or better average and recommendation of teacher
LEXINGTON, MASS.	Projects can be substituted for seniors in lieu of exams.
SOMERVILLE, MASS.	Graduating seniors
WELLESLEY, MASS.	In certain subjects
BIRMINGHAM, MICH.	At discretion of teacher
EAST DETROIT, MICH.	Exempted for good attendance
GARDEN CITY, MICH.	Students with "B" or better average, at discretion of teacher
JACKSON, MICH.	Graduating seniors; some discretion by teacher and principal depending on subject matter
MIDLAND, MICH.	Graduating seniors, if passing grade is assured; other subjects at discretion of principal
PORT HURON, MICH.	Students with certain grade averages; varies by high school
UTICA, MICH.	Graduating seniors; certain subjects for other students
WATERFORD TOWNSHIP, MICH. (Pontiac)	Graduating seniors, if passing grade is assured
EDINA, MINN.	At discretion of teacher
MINNETONKA, MINN.	At discretion of teacher
MOUNDS VIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT, MINN. (St. Paul)	At discretion of principal and staff
OSSEO, MINN.	At discretion of teacher
ROSEVILLE, MINN.	At discretion of teacher
FERGUSON-FLORISSANT SCHOOL DISTRICT, MO. (Ferguson)	No details
HAZELWOOD, MO.	Graduating seniors with qualifying grades
HICKMAN MILLS, MO.	At discretion of teacher
RAYTOWN, MO.	At discretion of teacher
WEBSTER GROVES, MO.	No details
MANCHESTER, N. H.	At discretion of principal and staff
CAMDEN, N. J.	At discretion of staff
CRANFORD, N. J.	Final exams not required of any student
EDISON TOWNSHIP, N. J. (Edison)	No details

EXEMPTIONS TO FINAL EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS (Continued)

School system	Exemption
6,000–24,999 pupils *(Continued)*	
LIVINGSTON, N. J.	Senior exemptions; grade exemptions; departmental options
MADISON TOWNSHIP, N. J. (Matawan)	Seniors
MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP, N. J. (Middletown)	Seniors with passing grades
RIDGEWOOD, N. J.	At discretion of teacher
SOUTH ORANGE-MAPLEWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT, N. J. (South Orange)	At discretion of department head
TRENTON, N. J.	Seniors with high enough grades
WAYNE TOWNSHIP, N. J. (Wayne)	At discretion of teacher if certain grade average is maintained
WESTFIELD, N. J.	In certain academic subjects
WILLINGBORO TOWNSHIP, N. J. (Willingboro)	No final examinations are given.
GALLUP-MC KINLEY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, N. MEX. (Gallup)	Attendance records exempt some students.
BALDWIN, N. Y.	No universal policy; in certain courses if certain grade average is maintained
GREAT NECK, N. Y.	At discretion of teacher
MASSAPEQUA, N. Y.	Graduating seniors with "B+" average
MEPHAM CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT, N. Y. (Merrick)	At discretion of teacher, if certain grade average is maintained in certain subjects
SACHEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, N. Y. (Holbrook)	At discretion of principal
SPRING VALLEY, N. Y.	Seniors taking regents course and having 85% average, with recommendation of teacher
FAYETTEVILLE, N. C., city schools	Student with certain grade average in a subject
ROBESON COUNTY, N. C. (Lumberton)	No details
ROWEN COUNTY, N. C. (Salisbury)	Graduating seniors at discretion of principal and teacher
BEREA, OHIO	At discretion of each school; currently all high schools require final exams.
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS-UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT, OHIO (Cleveland)	No required final exams for any students
UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT, OHIO (Columbus)	Graduating seniors
WARREN, OHIO	Exemption in certain courses dependent on content and length
WILLOUGHBY-EASTLAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT, OHIO (Willoughby)	At discretion of principal and staff
EUGENE, ORE.	At discretion of teacher
SALEM, ORE.	No details
ABINGTON, PA.	No details
BRISTOL TOWNSHIP, PA. (Bristol)	At discretion of teacher
HAZLETON, PA.	In one senior high school, top 10 graduating seniors
LOWER MERION SCHOOL DISTRICT, PA. (Ardmore)	At discretion of teacher
MT. LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT, PA. (Pittsburgh)	Upon recommendation of principal and advisory staff and approval of director of instructional services
NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT, PA. (Langhorne)	At discretion of teacher, with approval of department chairman
CRANSTON, R. I.	At discretion of principal, in cooperation with department heads

EXEMPTIONS TO FINAL EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS (Continued)

School system	Exemption
6,000-24,999 pupils *(Continued)*	
AIKEN COUNTY, S. C. (Aiken)	In two of four areas, as follows: Area I, students in grades 9-12 who maintain certain grade averages in certain subjects; Area IV, graduating seniors with "B" average
KNOX COUNTY, TENN. (Knoxville)	At discretion of principal and teacher
SUMNER COUNTY, TENN. (Gallatin)	Graduating seniors with "B+" average, at discretion of principal and teacher
GALVESTON, TEXAS	If certain grade average is maintained
GARLAND, TEXAS	Graduating seniors at discretion of teacher
GOOSE CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT, TEXAS (Baytown)	Students with high rate of attendance
IRVING, TEXAS	Seniors completing all work for each of six-weeks period with an 85 or better average and no truancies
KILLEEN, TEXAS	Graduating seniors with 85 average
OGDEN, UTAH, city schools	No details
ALEXANDRIA, VA.	No details
CHESTERFIELD COUNTY, VA. (Chesterfield)	Seniors with a "B" average in a subject
BELLEVUE, WASH.	At discretion of teacher
CLOVER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT, WASH. (Tacoma)	At discretion of principal and teacher, if certain grade average is maintained
EVERETT, WASH.	At discretion of teacher
KENT, WASH.	At discretion of teacher
LAKE WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT, WASH. (Kirkland)	At discretion of teacher
RENTON, WASH.	At discretion of principal, teacher, and department head
SHORELINE SCHOOL DISTRICT, WASH. (Seattle)	At discretion of principal or teacher, subject to certain requirements
YAKIMA, WASH.	At discretion of teacher
CABELL COUNTY, W. VA. (Huntington)	At discretion of teacher
APPLETON, WIS.	Students with certain grade average in certain subjects
ELMBROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT, WIS. (Brookfield)	Graduating seniors
JANESVILLE, WIS.	At discretion of teacher
KENOSHA, WIS.	At discretion of principal
WAUKESHA, WIS.	At discretion of teacher, if certain grade average is maintained in certain subjects
WAUWATOSA, WIS.	Graduating seniors
3,000-5,999 pupils (22 systems)	
MOUNTAIN BROOK, ALA.	Graduating seniors in second semester courses
GLENBROOK HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT, ILL. (Glenview)	Final evaluation need not be written exam; may be take-home exam, creative product, oral exam, or other, as appropriate.
HINSDALE, ILL.--Township High School District	"Culminating experiences" required; exams per se not required
OAK PARK, MICH.	Seniors; grade averages; teacher discretion

EXEMPTIONS TO FINAL EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS (Continued)

School system	Exemption
3,000-5,999 pupils *(Continued)*	
GLEN ROCK, N. J.	"Comprehensive final evaluations" in place of final exams may be reports, projects, etc.
NEW PROVIDENCE, N. J.	No details
RAMSEY, N. J.	Depending upon department, "A" or "B" might exempt student
TENAFLY, N. J.	Exams at discretion of students in certain courses
FAYETTEVILLE-MANLIUS SCHOOL DISTRICT, N.Y. (Manlius)	No details
HEWLETT-WOODMERE SCHOOL DISTRICT, N.Y. (Hewlett)	At discretion of teacher, final project may replace exam
JERICHO, N. Y.	No details
PELHAM, N. Y.	No details
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y.	Senior students in elective courses with averages over 85, with recommendation of teacher
ROSLYN, N. Y.	In certain subjects
WANTAUGH, N. Y.	Seniors in senior electives with "B+" or better average and teacher and parent approval
WESTBURY, N. Y.	In certain subjects, at discretion of principal
BAY VILLAGE, OHIO	At discretion of teacher
WESTLAKE, OHIO	In some vocational subjects
RADNOR TOWNSHIP, PA. (Wayne)	Seniors with honor grades
SPRINGFIELD, PA.	With certain grade average
WHITEFISH BAY, WIS.	Some form of evaluation required, but not limited to examinations
Less than 3,000 pupils (9 systems)	
GLEN RIDGE, N. J.	At discretion of teacher
MOUNTAIN LAKES, N. J.	No details
PALISADES PARK, N. J.	No details
VERONA, N. Y.	Exception may be granted to seniors with grades not lower than "B" in a subject.
MANHASSET, N. Y.	In certain subjects
OYSTER BAY-EAST NORWICH SCHOOL DISTRICT, N. Y. (Oyster Bay)	No details
BEACHWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT, OHIO (Cleveland)	Teacher has discretion of allowing alternative to final exam.
MARIEMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT, OHIO (Cincinnati)	Seniors
WYOMING SCHOOL DISTRICT, OHIO (Cincinnati)	Seniors with 90% average in a subject

165 SCHOOL SYSTEMS REQUIRING FINAL EXAMINATIONS FOR ALL STUDENTS IN ALL HIGH SCHOOLS

25,000 or more pupils (40 systems)

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
COMPTON, CALIF.
FREMONT, CALIF.
HACIENDA-LA PUENTE SCHOOL DISTRICT, CALIF. (La Puente)
PASADENA, CALIF.

RIVERSIDE, CALIF.
SAN JOSE, CALIF.
STOCKTON, CALIF.
BREVARD COUNTY, FLA. (Titusville)
BROWARD COUNTY, FLA. (Ft. Lauderdale)

ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLA. (Pensacola)
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLA. (Tampa)
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLA. (West Palm Beach)
BIBB COUNTY, GA. (Macon)
MUSCOGEE COUNTY, GA. (Columbus)

SOUTH BEND, IND.
DES MOINES, IOWA
WICHITA, KANS.
JEFFERSON COUNTY, KY. (Louisville)
CADDO PARISH, LA. (Shreveport)

RAPIDES PARISH, LA. (Alexandria)
SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
DETROIT, MICH.
ST. LOUIS, MO.
CLARK COUNTY, NEV. (Las Vegas)

NEWARK, N. J.
BUFFALO, N. Y.
SYRACUSE, N. Y.
AKRON, OHIO
CLEVELAND, OHIO

TOLEDO, OHIO
PITTSBURGH, PA.
PROVIDENCE, R. I.
GREENVILLE COUNTY, S. C. (Greenville)
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

DALLAS, TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
GRANITE SCHOOL DISTRICT, UTAH (Salt Lake City)
SEATTLE, WASH.
RACINE, WIS.

6,000-24,999 pupils (104 systems)

ARCADIA, CALIF.
AZUSA, CALIF.
BALDWIN PARK, CALIF.
EL RANCHO SCHOOL DISTRICT, CALIF. (Pico Rivera)
FAIRFIELD-SUISUN SCHOOL DISTRICT, CALIF. (Fairfield)

FOLSOM-CORDOVA SCHOOL DISTRICT, CALIF. (Folsom)
FONTANA, CALIF.
FREMONT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT, CALIF. (Sunnyvale)
GROSSMONT, CALIF.--Union High School District
KERN UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT, CALIF. (Bakersfield)

LOMPOC, CALIF.
NAPA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT, CALIF. (Yountville)
OXNARD, CALIF.--Union High School District
SAN MATEO, CALIF.--Union High School District
SANTA CLARA, CALIF.

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.
VENTURA, CALIF.
EASTLAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT, COLO. (Denver)
FAIRFIELD, CONN.
GREENWICH, CONN.

STAMFORD, CONN.
WILMINGTON, DEL.
BAY COUNTY, FLA. (Panama City)
LAKE COUNTY, FLA. (Tavares)
GLYNN COUNTY, GA. (Brunswick)

DECATUR, ILL.
DOWNERS GROVE, ILL.
DUNDEE, ILL.
MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT, ILL. (Park Ridge)
SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

BARTHOLOMEW SCHOOL CORPORATION, IND. (Columbus)
ST. LANDRY PARISH, LA. (Opelousas)
ST. MARY PARISH, LA. (Franklin)
ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD. (Cumberland)
CHARLES COUNTY, MD. (La Plata)

BROOKLINE, MASS.
FALL RIVER, MASS.
PITTSFIELD, MASS.
QUINCY, MASS.
FARMINGTON, MICH.

KALAMAZOO, MICH.
PONTIAC, MICH.
ROYAL OAK, MICH.
SOUTHFIELD, MICH.
TAYLOR, MICH.

DULUTH, MINN.
WAYZATA, MINN.
INDEPENDENCE, MO.
NORTH KANSAS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, MO. (Kansas City)
PARKWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT, MO. (Chesterfield)

PATTONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT, MO. (Maryland Heights)
RITENOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT, MO. (Overland)
ST. JOSEPH, MO.
UNIVERSITY CITY, MO.
BILLINGS, MONT.

165 SCHOOL SYSTEMS REQUIRING FINAL EXAMINATIONS FOR ALL STUDENTS IN ALL HIGH SCHOOLS (Continued)

6,000-24,999 pupils *(Continued)*

FAIR LAWN, N. J.
HAMILTON TOWNSHIP, N. J. (Trenton)
WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP, N. J. (Woodbridge)
LAS CRUCES, N. MEX.
COMMACK, N. Y.

COPIAGUE, N. Y.
FARMINGDALE, N. Y.
KENMORE, N. Y.
MIDDLE COUNTRY SCHOOL DISTRICT, N. Y.
(Centereach)
NEWBURGH, N. Y.

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y.
PORT WASHINGTON, N. Y.
ROME, N. Y.
SCHENECTADY, N. Y.
SMITHTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, N. Y.
(St. James)

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y.
DURHAM, N. C., city schools
NEW HANOVER COUNTY, N. C. (Wilmington)
ONSLOW COUNTY, N. C. (Jacksonville)
WAYNE COUNTY, N. C. (Wayne)

CANTON, OHIO
LORAIN, OHIO
SHAKER HEIGHTS, OHIO
SOUTH EUCLID-LYNDHURST SCHOOL DISTRICT, OHIO
(Cleveland)
SPRINGFIELD, OHIO

LAWTON, OKLA.
MIDWEST CITY-DEL CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, OKLA.
(Midwest City)
BUTLER, PA.
ERIE, PA.
PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT, PA. (Fallsington)

READING, PA.
WARWICK, R. I.
DARLINGTON COUNTY, S. C. (Darlington)
FLORENCE, S. C.
RAPID CITY, S. DAK.

SIOUX FALLS, S. DAK.
CHATTANOOGA, TENN., city schools
SHELBY COUNTY, TENN. (Memphis)
ARLINGTON, TEXAS
ECTOR COUNTY, TEXAS (Odessa)

NORTH FOREST SCHOOL DISTRICT, TEXAS (Houston)
SOUTH PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT, TEXAS (Beaumont)
ARLINGTON, VA.
ROANOKE, VA., city schools
FEDERAL WAY, WASH.

MERCER COUNTY, W. VA. (Princeton)
GREEN BAY, WIS.
CASPER, WYO.
CHEYENNE, WYO.

3,000-5,999 pupils (10 systems)

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF.
SAN MARINO, CALIF.
MUNSTER, IND.
BELMONT, MASS.
ALLEN PARK, MICH.

KIRKWOOD, MO.
RUTHERFORD, N. J.
SUMMIT, N. J.
ORCHARD PARK, N. Y.
ROCKY RIVER, OHIO

Less than 3,000 pupils (11 systems)

HARPER WOODS, MICH.
GOLDEN VALLEY, MINN.
CLAYTON, MO.
CEDAR GROVE, N. J.
PARK RIDGE, N. J.

ARDSLEY, N. Y.
PLEASANTVILLE, N. Y.
PORT JEFFERSON, N. Y.
BEXLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT, OHIO (Columbus)
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

SHOREWOOD, WIS.

SAMPLE POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING EXEMPTIONS FROM FINAL EXAMINATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION: FINAL EVALUATION ACTIVITY

Ex.1 A final evaluation activity (e.g., a written examination, an oral examination, a term paper, an oral presentation, or any other pertinent activity) is required in all courses or mini-courses, at their conclusion. The teacher will involve students in determining the type of final evaluative activity. This activity must be based on the objectives of the course. The final decision rests with the teacher.

The grade for the final evaluative activity is part of the grade for that marking period.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE: SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS' PLAN FOR PLACING THE SEMESTER TEST ON AN OPTIONAL BASIS

Ex.2 Students will have the option of being exempted from taking semester exams if they are not absent or tardy for more than three days during the semester and have an unmarred discipline record. The following criteria must be followed in order for a student to participate in the plan:

1. A student may not be absent or tardy from any one class for more than three times.
2. If a student is away from school on approved school business, these absences will not be counted in the total of three permitted.
3. If a student is absent from school due to illness, these days will be counted against the total permitted.
4. The three days apply to each individual class. This means that a student may be absent in English class for only two days and be eligible to participate in the plan for English but be absent for four days in mathematics class and not be eligible to participate in the plan.
5. The optional phase of the plan permits a student who is eligible to take the semester exam or he may choose not to take it. However, if he chooses to take the semester exam, the examination grade will be counted in figuring the final grade.
6. This plan, when initiated, will not be retroactive and the total number of absences and tardies will begin at that date.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY: SENIOR EXEMPTION

Ex.3 Seniors who are scheduled to graduate may be eligible for exemptions from final examinations at the end of the school year if they meet the following requirements:

1. Must have completed all of their work by the end of each six weeks.
2. Must have an average of 85 or better for the semester's work.
3. Must have no truancies.

BOARD POLICY: STUDENT AFFAIRS--EXAMINATIONS

Ex.4 Evaluation of students' progress is an important part of the teaching process. All students may or may not be required to take examinations in all subjects. Seniors in good standing may be excused from examinations at the end of the school year. The policy does not excuse a senior from mid-year examinations, even though he is completing his program. Examinations shall not be given in advance of the date scheduled. Students who are unable to take the examination as scheduled

(Continued)

SAMPLE POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING EXEMPTIONS (CONTINUED)

may make an appointment with the teacher to take the examination at a later date--but not at an earlier date. At the end of a course, students who do not take scheduled examinations are to be given incomplete or "F" grades. At the end of the school year, each teacher is to leave with the building principal copies of examinations and instructions for those pupils who were unable to take the examinations. After students report to take examinations, the papers will be forwarded to the teacher for correction and final grading.

If a pupil moves to another community prior to the close of the school year and it is not possible or convenient for the pupil to take the examination at the school after the close of the school year, copies of the examination questions will be forwarded to a school official in the community to which the pupil has moved with the request that the examinations be administered and returned. The local school will be responsible for grading the papers.

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